

Message Text

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64

ACTION VOE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 /012 W

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R 251959Z APR 74

FM AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 548

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

UNCLAS RIO DE JANEIRO 1502

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS/ OGEN/BR

SUBJ: NON-IMMIGRANT VISA ISSUANCE PROCESS

REF: STATE 021246; RIO A-25

1. ESTABLISHMENT AT CONGEN RIO OF POLICY AND GUIDELINES SIMILAR TO THOSE DESCRIBED REFTEL FOR NIV FUNCTION HAS HELPED POST COPE WITH PROBLEMS CAUSED BY THE INCREASE IN ITS NIV TRANSACTIONS FROM 16,000 IN FY 1971 TO A PROJECTED FIGURE OF 30,000 FOR FY 1974 WITH NO STAFF INCREASE.

2. FACILITATING CONGEN RECENT VISAS PERFORMANCE IS FACT THAT MORE THAN HALF OF ALL NIV APPLICATIONS ARE DELIVERED TO US BY TRAVEL AGENCIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMPANIES. MOST APPLICATIONS FROM OUTLYING AREAS SERVICED BY CONGEN (LARGE CITIES SUCH AS BELO HORIZONTE, AND ALL SALVADOR CONSULAR DISTRICT), ARE THUS HANDLED. FOR MOST OF THESE, PERSONAL APPEARANCE CAN BE WAIVED, AND VISAED PASSPORTS RETURNED VIA SAME CHANNEL. POST BELIEVES THIS PROCEDURE MORE EFFICIENT THAN USE OF DIRECT MAIL FOR INDIVIDUAL APPLICATIONS AND PASSPORT RETURNS, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF TIME OF VOLUME MAILING OPERATION WOULD REQUIRE. PASSPORT HOLDERS ALSO GENERALLY LACK CONFIDENCE IN BRAZIL'S MAIL SYSTEM.

3. A YEAR AGO CONGEN REDUCED PERIOD FOR ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS BOTH PERSONAL AND BULK DELIVERY, TO MORNINGS ONLY (20 HOURS UNCLASSIFIED

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A WEEK). THIS IN ACTUAL PRACTICE HAS INCREASED TIME AVAILABLE FOR PROCESSING APPLICATIONS, SIGNING VISAS, AND HANDLING CORRESPONDENCE. THUS MANHOURS PER VISA HAVE BEEN REDUCED AND TOTAL OUTPUT INCREASED WITHOUT NOTICEABLE

ADVERSE REACTION.

4. CONGEN STAFFING PERMITS FULL-TIME ASSIGNMENT OF ONLY ONE AMERICAN OFFICER FOR BOTH NIV'S AND IV'S. GIVEN THE VOLUME OF APPLICATIONS IN BULK, HIS TIME WOULD BE INEFFICIENTLY USED IF MORNINGS WERE DEVOTED ONLY TO PERSONAL APPEARANCES FOR INITIAL INTERVIEWS. WITH GREATER STAFF AVAILABILITY, PERSONAL INTERVIEWS MIGHT ENHANCE PUBLIC RELATIONS; HOWEVER, WITH MINIMAL STAFF ASSIGNED RIO AND ALREADY WORKING UNDER INTENSE TIME PRESSURES WE BELIEVE OPPOSITE EFFECT COULD RESULT SINCE VISA ISSUANCE LIKELY WOULD BE DELAYED BY ONE WORK DAY. AMERICAN OFFICER DOES REVIEW EACH PASSPORT AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS BEFORE SIGNATURE, AND INTERVIEWS DOUBTFUL CASES.

5. IN VIEW CONTINUING INCREASE NIV WORKLOAD AND NUMBER OF AMERICANS CALLING AT CONGEN FOR ASSISTANCE, WE ARE CONSIDERING ENLARGEMENT PUBLIC RECEPTION AND SEATING AREAS TO MAINTAIN APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENT.

6. AS WE ASSESS PRESENT SITUATION AND MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE, WE HAVE CONCLUDED THAT CURRENT STAFFING PATTERNS WILL BE ADEQUATE ONLY INTO FY 1975. THIS TAKES INTO ACCOUNT FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS.

7. CONSULAR SECTION IS CURRENTLY STAFFED BY TWO OFFICERS: ONE ASSIGNED TO VISAS AND OTHER TO PASSPORT, CITIZENSHIP, PROTECTION, AND ASSISTANCE TO THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY. THE PRACTICAL WORK REQUIREMENTS OF THIS ARRANGEMENT NECESSITATE AN INTERCHANGE OF RESPONSIBILITIES, PARTICULARLY DURING PEAK VISA SEASONS WHICH NOW OCCUR AT BOTH MID-YEAR AND YEAR END. THEN CITIZENSHIP OFFICER MUST SPEND MUCH OF EACH DAY ASSISTING WITH NIV ISSUANCES, TO POSSIBLE DETRIMENT OF SERVICES TO US CITIZENS. ALTERNATIVELY, CURRENT INCREASE IN COMPLEX PROTECTION AND WELFARE CASES DUE TO GREATER INFLUX OF TOURISTS TO RIO MAY LESSEN TIME AVAILABLE FOR NIV WORK. THIS TREND IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE GIVEN GOB
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DESIRE ATTRACT TOURIST DOLLAR AND CONTEMPLATED INTRODUCTION THIS SUMMER ON SERVICE TO RIO OF BOEING 747 AND DC-10 AIRCRAFT.

8. SITUATION WILL BE AGGRAVATED FURTHER BY THE FACT THAT, AS RESULT EMBASSY MOVE TO BRASILIA, CONGEN STAFF HAS BEEN DIMINISHED TO THE POINT THAT IS NOW DIFFICULT TO PROVIDE "SWING" VISA OFFICER ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER SECTIONS, PARTICULARLY FOR PERIODS OF ABSENCE DUE TO ANNUAL, HOME, OR SICK LEAVE OR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.

9. ON BALANCE THESE FACTORS IN COMBINATION WILL MAKE IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN NORMAL CONSULAR OPERATIONS

ON A TIMELY BASIS, LET ALTNE DEVELOP COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS
AND GOOD MANAGEMENT PRACTICES WITHIN SECTION WHICH WILL
CONTRIBUTE TO FULL ACHIEVEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT'S GOALS FOR
NIV PROCESS.
BOONSTRA

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